

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions of the claims of this application.

1. (Three times amended) A ridge ventilation system comprising:

a plurality of ridge vent sections each having ends and longitudinal edges and being configured to be arranged end-to-end covering an open ridge of a roof;

each of said ridge vent sections having a laterally flexible central panel flanked by ventilation grids that extend along and inboard of the longitudinal edges of the ridge vent; and

a plurality of fasteners located between the longitudinal edges of at least some of the ridge vent sections and being removably secured to the ridge vent sections at a series of first locations, said fasteners being positioned to be removed by an installer of said ridge ventilation system for use along said ridge vent sections at locations different from the first locations [in] for fastening said ridge vent sections to a roof.

2. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 1 and wherein each of said ridge vent sections further comprises wind baffles positioned outboard of said ventilation grids for creating a relatively low pressure region in the vicinity of said ventilation grids in response to a breeze blowing past said ridge vent section, said fasteners being removably secured to said ridge vent sections between at least one of said wind baffles and the corresponding ventilation grid.

3. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 2 and wherein each of said wind baffles is supported by an array of buttresses extending between said wind baffle and the corresponding ventilation grid, at least some of said buttresses being configured for releasably holding said fasteners.

4. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 3 and wherein said fasteners are nails and wherein said at least some of said buttresses are formed with notches sized to receive and removably secure said nails.

5. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 2 and further comprising a drain trough formed between each of said ventilation grids and its corresponding wind baffle, weep

holes formed along each of said drain troughs for promoting the escape of water from said drain troughs, and upstanding barriers positioned along said drain troughs and aligned with said weep holes for preventing rain from being blown through said weep holes and into said ventilation grids.

6. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 5 and wherein said fasteners are removably secured to said ridge vent sections between at least one of said wind baffles and the corresponding ventilation grid.

7. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 6 and further comprising an array of buttresses extending between at least one of said wind baffles and the corresponding ventilation grid for supporting said wind baffle, at least some of said buttresses being configured for releasably holding said fasteners.

8. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 7 and wherein at least some of said buttresses are formed with notches sized to receive and removably hold said fasteners.

9. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 8 and wherein said fasteners comprise nails.

10. (Twice amended) A ridge ventilation system comprising:

a plurality of ridge vent sections each having ends and longitudinal edges and being configured to be arranged end-to-end covering an open ridge of a roof;

each of said ridge vent sections having a laterally flexible central panel flanked by ventilation grids; and

a drain for diverting water that may seep into the junction between a pair of end-to-end ridge vent sections away from the open ridge of a roof;

said drain comprising a laterally extending trough integrally formed on and extending along one end of each of said ridge vent sections, said trough being sized and configured to underlie the junction between two joined ridge vent sections to receive water and divert the water toward said ventilation grids of said ridge vent sections.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously amended) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 10 and further comprising a plurality of fasteners removably secured to each of said ridge vent sections between the longitudinal edges thereof, said fasteners being positioned to be removed by an installer of said ridge ventilation system for use in fastening said ridge vent sections to a roof.

13. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 12 and wherein said plurality of fasteners are removably secured to each of said ridge vent sections along said ventilation grids thereof.

14. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 13 and further comprising wind baffles positioned outboard of said ventilation grids for creating a relatively low pressure region in the vicinity of said ventilation grids in response to a breeze blowing past said ridge vent section, said fasteners being removably secured to said ridge vent sections between at least one of said wind baffles and the corresponding ventilation grid.

15. (Original) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 14 and further comprising an array of buttresses extending between at least one of said wind baffles and the corresponding ventilation grid for supporting said wind baffle, at least some of said buttresses being configured for releasably holding said fasteners.

16. (New) A ridge ventilation system comprising:

a plurality of ridge vent sections configured to be arranged end-to-end covering an open ridge of a roof, each ridge vent section having ends and opposed longitudinal edges;

each of said ridge vent sections having a laterally flexible central panel flanked by ventilation grids and having integrally formed features located between the opposed longitudinal edges, the features being configured to receive and releasably hold respective fasteners in accessible storage positions along each of said ridge vent sections; and

a plurality of fasteners stowed in respective features on at least one of said ridge vent sections between the opposed longitudinal edges thereof prior to arrangement of the ridge vent sections on a roof to be used in fastening said ridge vent sections to a roof; and

the fasteners being stowed in a storage position prior to arrangement of the ridge vent sections on a roof and being removable therefrom for application in a fastening position that is different from the storage position when the ridge vent sections are fastened to the roof.

17. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 16 and wherein each of said ridge vent sections further comprises wind baffles positioned outboard of said ventilation grids.
18. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 17 and wherein each of said wind baffles is supported by an array of buttresses extending between said wind baffle and the corresponding ventilation grid.
19. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 16 and wherein said plurality of fasteners comprises nails.
20. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 17 and further comprising a drain trough formed between each of said ventilation grids and the corresponding wind baffle, weep holes formed along each of said drain troughs for promoting the escape of water from said drain troughs, and upstanding barriers positioned along said drain troughs and aligned with said weep holes for preventing rain from being blown through said weep holes and into said ventilation grids.
21. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 16 and wherein said fasteners are driven into holes formed along the lengths of said ridge vent sections.
22. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 21 wherein said holes are disposed in said laterally flexible panel.
23. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 22 and wherein said fasteners comprise nails.
24. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 16 and wherein said plurality of fasteners comprises a sufficient number of fasteners to fasten said ridge vent section to a roof and to fasten shingles over said ridge vent section.
25. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claim in claim 16 and wherein said plurality of fasteners is removably stowed on said ridge vent section.

26. (New) A ridge ventilation system comprising:

a plurality of ridge vent sections configured to be arranged end-to-end covering an open ridge of a roof, each ridge vent section having opposed ends and opposed longitudinal edges;

each of said ridge vent sections having a laterally flexible central panel flanked by ventilation grids extending along and inboard of said opposed longitudinal edges;

at least some of said ridge vent sections being formed to define features located between the longitudinal edges of the ridge vent sections and configured to receive and hold respective fasteners in a fixed orientation with respect to said ridge vent sections;

a plurality of fasteners for fastening said ridge vent sections to the roof, said fasteners being carried by the features of at least one of said ridge vent sections at locations between said longitudinal edges thereof before said ridge vent sections are arranged on a roof, said fasteners being disposed in a storage position before said ridge vent sections are arranged on a roof and each being removable from said storage position for disposition in a fastening position different from said storage position after said ridge vent sections are arranged on and fastened to the roof.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 26 and further comprising wind baffles positioned outboard of said ventilation grids.

29. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 28 and further comprising an array of buttresses extending between at least one of said wind baffles and the corresponding ventilation grid for supporting said wind baffles.

30. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 26 and wherein said plurality of fasteners comprises a sufficient number of fasteners to fasten said ridge vent section to a roof and to fasten shingles over said ridge vent section.

31. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 26 and wherein said plurality of fasteners are removably carried by the features of said ridge vent section.

32. (New) A ridge vent section for installation on a roof comprising:

an elongated central panel having opposed ends joined by opposed longitudinal edges;

a plurality of features integrally formed in said ridge vent section between said opposed longitudinal edges, the features being configured to releasably hold respective fasteners in a fixed orientation relative to said ridge vent section;

a ventilation grid formed along an edge of said central panel; and

a fastener held by a respective feature and stowed on said ridge vent section between said longitudinal edges before said ridge vent section is installed on a roof for fastening said ridge vent section to a roof,

the fastener having a first position relative to the ridge vent section when held in said features and a second position different from the first position relative to the ridge vent section when fastening the ridge vent section to the roof.

33. (New) A ridge vent section as claimed in claim 32 and further comprising a hole in said panel.

34. (New) A ridge vent section as claimed in claim 33 and wherein said fastener is driven into said hole when fastening said ridge vent section to a roof.

35. (New) A ridge vent section as claimed in claim 34 and wherein said fastener is a nail.

36. (New) A ridge vent section as claimed in claim 32 and wherein said central panel is laterally flexible.

37. (New) A ridge vent section as claimed in claim 32 and further comprising a wind baffle positioned outboard of said ventilation grid.

38. (New) A ridge vent section as claimed in claim 37 and further comprising a drain trough formed between said ventilation grid and said wind baffle.

39. (New) A ridge vent section as claimed in claim 38 and further comprising a weep hole formed along said drain.

40. (New) A ridge vent section as claimed in claim 32 and wherein said features are disposed along said ventilation grids.
41. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 16 and wherein said features are disposed along said ventilation grids.
42. (New) A ridge ventilation system as claimed in claim 26 and wherein said features are disposed along said ventilation grids.